



Coeur d'Alene Charter School emerged victorious in the Class B competition at the 2010 INL Scholastic Tournament state finals and will head to DOE's National Science Bowl April 29.

## INL Scholastic Tournament celebrates 20 years of competition

By [Marilyn Whitney](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

If you ask former Idaho Sen. Mel Richardson about the secret to success, he'll tell you "keep learning." Richardson has encouraged thousands of Idaho students to do just that through the INL Scholastic Tournament he helped establish 20 years ago. Today, it remains the largest quiz bowl competition of the U.S. Department of Energy tournaments held around the country each year.

Richardson, who served eight terms in the Idaho Senate and two terms in the Idaho House of Representatives, retired from public service in 2008. A broadcaster since 1951, Richardson continues to work in radio.

His history with quiz bowls dates back to the 1960s, when he organized weekly competitions for schools in eastern Idaho, broadcasting matches first on the radio and later on local television. Richardson's goal was to make the quiz bowl available to every high school in Idaho, so he approached INL seeking a sponsor to help promote and stage competitions statewide. Today, 74 teams compete at regional tournaments in Moscow, Boise and Idaho Falls. This year, 28 of those teams qualified to travel to Boise for March's state competition.



**Former Idaho Sen. Mel Richardson, helped found the INL Scholastic Tournament.**

Students who participated at the state competition began that day learning about robotics and microbes in Super Science Seminars with INL researchers Victor Walker and Deborah Newby. At the annual luncheon, Richardson regaled attendees with stories of the early days of the quiz bowl, and former NASA astronaut and McCall-Donnelly elementary schoolteacher Barbara Morgan recounted her launch experience aboard the space shuttle Endeavor in 2007.

Morgan, who participated in the Teacher in Space program, was a mission specialist on STS-118, an assembly mission to the International Space Station. She is currently the Distinguished Educator in Residence at Boise State University.



**Logos Charter School and Butte County High School square off in the Idaho Class C championship.**

But the day's primary activities centered on the Scholastic Tournament competition. Teams from 28 schools, grouped into A, B or C classes based on enrollment, competed in the state finals. By the end of the day, six teams had advanced to the final championship round. Those teams competed March 17 in matches videotaped at the KIVI-TV studio in Nampa.

Boise's Treasure Valley Math and Science Center (TVMSC) defended their Class A title, but came up short as Boise's Centennial High School took this year's first-place trophy. In the Class B competition, Coeur d'Alene Charter School edged out Filer High School. Moscow's Logos School beat out Butte County High School for the Class C title.

The competition was broadcast on Idaho Public Television on March 27, and streaming of the program can be viewed at <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/1452537905/>. The three winning teams will compete in the [U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl](#) April 29 through May 4 at

the [National 4-H Center](#) in Washington, D.C.

### Full Results of 2010 INL Scholastic Tournament:

Schools are classified by student enrollment, much as athletics are classified. Class A schools are the large schools, Class B medium and Class C smaller schools.

#### Class A:

1st Place Centennial High School (Boise)

2nd Place Treasure Valley Math and Science Center (Boise)  
3rd Place Lakeland High School (Rathdrum)  
Consolation Skyline High School (Idaho Falls)

**Class B:**

1st Place Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy  
2nd Place Filer High School  
3rd Place Cole Valley Christian High School (Boise)  
Consolation Ririe High School

**Class C:**

1st Place Logos School (Moscow)  
2nd Place Butte County High School (Arco)  
3rd Place Council High School  
Consolation Riverstone International School (Boise)

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